Contaminated Ground water in Gangetic Plains of West Bengal

3401. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Ground Water Board has conducted studies into the arsenic contamination in ground water in the Gangetic Plains of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details of the studies and the recommendations made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the studies conducted by Central Ground Watar Board (CGWB), under Ministry of Water Resources, arsenic contamination in ground water in the lower Gangetic Plain of West Bengal has been identifed sporadically in a linear tract extending from southern part of Malda district (North of Ganga river) through Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts to the east of Bhagirathi and Bardhaman. Howrah and Hoogly districts of West of Bhagirathi At present, 67 blocks of 8 districts of West Bengal have been identified to have arsenic contamination in ground water more than the permissible limit of 0.05 milligram/liter, the deeper aquifers were found to be free from arsenic contamination and suitable for drinking and domestic use. The CGWB has recommended construction of deep tube-walls in the area, treatment of arsenic water of shallow horizons by suitable treatment techniques, etc.